

SUPPORTING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Courses Description:

- Each course is taught within 2-3 course blocks, with a cumulative 7 hours allocated for each course.
- Course blocks are kept within a 2-3 day time frame. Generally, courses will be one full day long. Some courses may be broken into half days.
- The curriculum taught in each course is developed by the Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service and approved by an advisory board.
- This curriculum will be taught by experts and professionals with a mix between professionals in the field and educators at local Universities.
- These courses will serve as a means to foster networking opportunities through team activities and exercises that reinforce the learning objectives of the course and allow students to apply.
- These courses will principally taught in person at Weber State University initially, with an electronic option to save on travel expenses and assist in the safety precautions and regulations of COVID-19.
- Each course will be paired up with another so that there is a course that is designed to build knowledge and expertise “for the soul” and the other course which is meant to provide a professional tool.
- One hour per block of each course will be allocated to conduct a moderated roundtable style discussion.

Certification Policies/Rules:

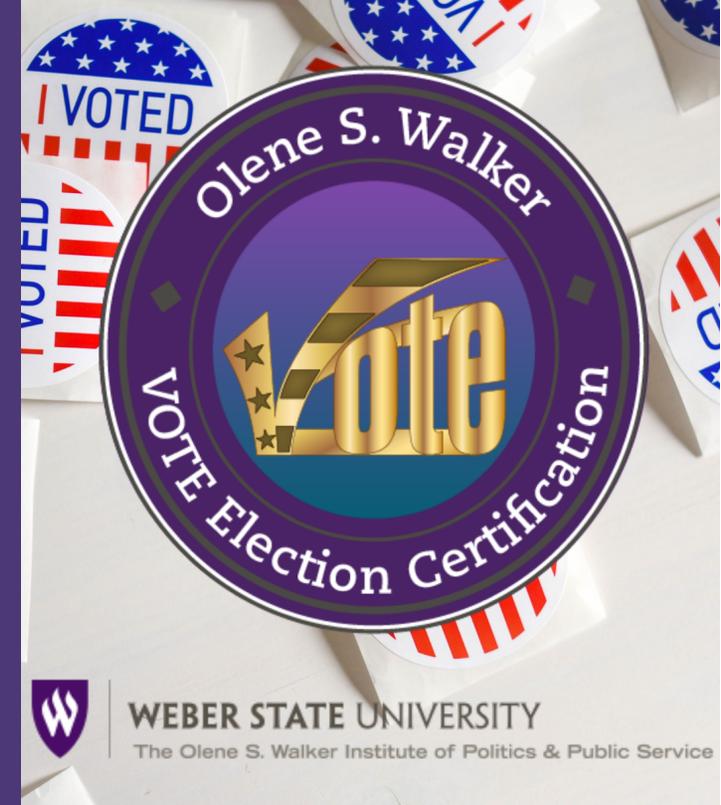
- A milestone will be reached for each participant's completed course. Attendance is required for the entire time the course is being taught. A camera shall be on for the duration of each course.
- A badge certificate and an award will be given to each participant that successfully completes all 10 courses. Courses can be completed at any time and in any order.
- Affordable for counties of all sizes with potential for scholarships or fee waivers for those who participate in the courses.
- 2-3 course blocks will be taught each year. They will generally be held in January and March every year and in June in odd years and August in even years.

CONTACT US

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The Olene S. Walker
VOTE Certification
provides a
foundation for Utah
election workers
that increases their
understanding,
skills, and ability to
run free and fair
elections by
increasing their
knowledge and
providing tools.

COURSES

PROCESS DESIGN & WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT

An introduction to the Theory of Constraints and a hands on approach to making your job easier by finding efficiencies in your daily tasks and ballot processing. Learn how to map processes, identify bottlenecks, and improve the work you do every day in your office.

Instructor - Michael Dixon, PhD - Professor at Utah State University

THE HISTORY OF ELECTIONS

A high level overview of voting rights in the US and groups that have fought to obtain access to the ballot box. In addition, examining the larger theory of why we have elections.

Instructor - Leah Murray, PhD - Professor at Weber State University

NAVIGATING STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTION LAW

An exploration of defining legislation and federal involvement in elections since the Voting Rights Act. HAVA, NVRA, the MOVE Act. Learn how to read and understand Utah Law with an emphasis on Utah Code 20A. This course will unlock the mysteries of how the legislative process works in Utah, including instruction on how to get involved in the process and effectively communicate with your legislators.*

RIGGED, STOLEN, HACKED? NOT ON OUR WATCH!

Hear from experts in the security world about the threats that our democracy faces and how elections officials can restore confidence in our elections through testing, audits, and recounts. This class also examines contingency planning and gives the student a place to begin their own contingency plan.

NUTS AND BOLTS OF UTAH ELECTIONS

Overview of key election dates and deadlines. From an understanding of the evolution of Utah elections to designing and implementing the election calendar, with an emphasis on how to use the Utah Code.



PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS

An introduction to effective communication discusses a variety of communications including press releases, marketing, communicating through email and effective decision making. In addition, strategies for managing stress and principles of de-escalating potentially dangerous situations.

DEMOCRACY IS A DESIGN PROBLEM

Learn about the importance of the layout and design of not only the ballot, but also other election materials in order to effectively express important messages relating to the election.

NERD ALERT! DATA ANALYTICS

Now that the hard work has been done, it's time to analyze the data. Overview of gathering, extracting, compiling, and preparing data, both in raw format and visually, in order to draw conclusions about certain datasets not limited to polling, turnout, and results. A focus on the use of GIS in this work.

STRESS MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

How to take care of yourself during an election. Customer service/de-escalation techniques. An introduction to effective communication discusses a variety of communications including having critical conversation with staff, writing a better email. In addition, learn strategies for de-escalating conflict and avoiding potentially dangerous situations.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS IN ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

This course will focus on organizational behavior and leadership concepts. Students will examine team building strategies and how to have critical conversations. Learn how to be a leader, build an effective and diverse team and achieve your goals.

HOW TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE TRAINER

Poll worker education cannot be underestimated when it comes to the planning and execution of an election. How to provide efficient, effective training to poll workers to ensure a smoothly run election.



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

The Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics & Public Service

*Future courses and instructors to be announced.